# American Red Cross

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# Organization, Disaster Response and Communications

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# The American Red Cross

- A humanitarian organization led by volunteers
- Guided by Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement

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- Provides relief to victims of disaster and helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

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# Red Cross History

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# Henry Dunant…

- Witnessed the aftermath of the battle of Solferino during the Napoleonic Wars.
- Organized an effort to care for the wounded
- Created a plan for nations to form relief societies to provide care for those wounded in wars
- Each society trained volunteers to aid the wounded on the battlefield and to care for them until they recovered
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- **Henry Dunant**
  - Was the driving force for the creation of the Geneva Convention of 1864.
  - The original treaty has expanded to the Geneva Convention of 1949 and adopted by almost every nation.
  - Founded the worldwide International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

# Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross in 1881

- She was the driving force for bringing the U.S. into compliance with Red Cross principles.
- In 1900, the American National Red Cross received a Congressional charter making the work of the American Red Cross accountable to, ***but not funded*** by Congress.

# The Fundamental Principles

- Humanity
- Voluntary Service
- Impartiality
- Unity
- Neutrality
- Universality
- Independence

# Your Local Chapter

- **1898. Seattle-King County Chapter**
- **1925. Kitsap Chapter**
- **2002. American Red Cross Serving King & Kitsap Counties**

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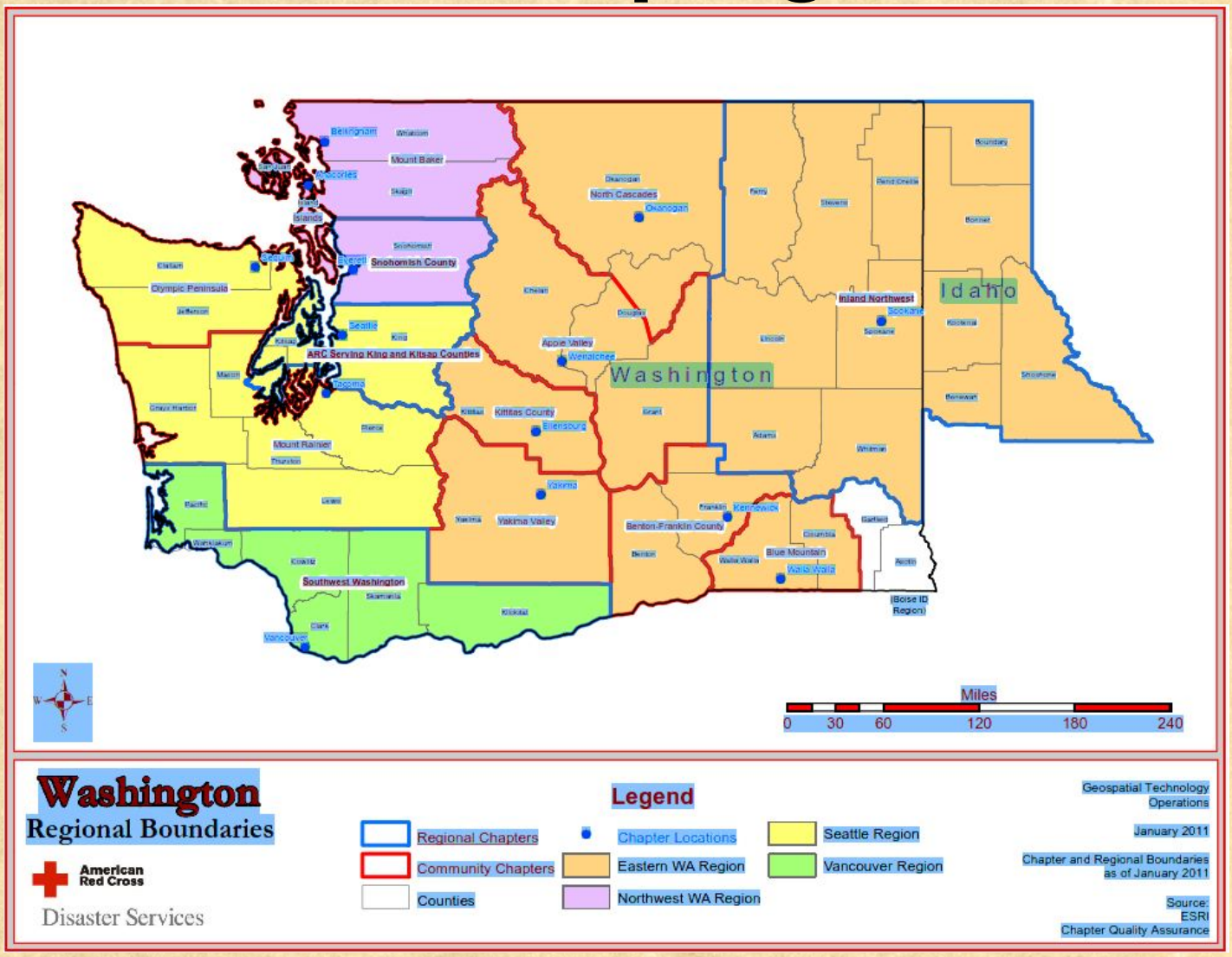
# Washington Regional Groupings



# Mid-Western Washington Region

- King & Kitsap Chapter
- Mt. Rainier Chapter
- Olympic Peninsula Chapter

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# Structure of the ARC Serving King & Kitsap Counties

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# Disaster Services

- 24/7 response to disasters - both local and national
  - Shelter
  - Food
  - Clothing, Clean-up kits, etc.
  - Counseling
  - Referrals to other services
- Disaster Volunteer Training
- Government and Partner Liaison

# Services to the Armed Forces

- Emergency communications to active duty, reserve and National Guard
- Provide verified information so the service member can make decisions about the emergency and the military can make decisions about requests for emergency leave, etc.

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# Preparedness

Disaster education

- Businesses
- Community groups
- Individuals

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# International Services

- Family tracing
- Language bank

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# Health Services

- Safety training
  - First Aid
  - CPR
  - Water Safety
  - Babysitter Training, etc.
- Emergency kit and supply sales

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# Marketing & Communication

- Marketing and public relations
- Media relations
- Social media
- Fundraising

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# Operations

- Accounting
- Building & Grounds
- IT
- Print Shop

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# Volunteer Services

- Recruits, orients and places volunteers

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# Blood Bank?

Not in Washington State

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# Disasters!

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# Disasters!

- Small events are handled locally by a Disaster Action Team (DAT) at the request of the Fire or Police department
  - Apartment fires
  - House fires
  - Small scale floods
- Larger events are handled regionally, consistent with our capabilities

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# Response

- K-K has approximately 2,500 volunteers
- There is a response every 55 hours



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# FY 2010:

- Responded to 158 incidents
- Served 230 families, 654 individuals
- 8,044 meals, 2,584 shelter nights
- Volunteers served 118,635 hours

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# Recent Disasters

- Nov. 2006 Flood, 100 year flood
- Dec. 2006 Windstorm
- Dec. 2007 Flood, *another* 100 year flood (*Somebody re-booted the system*)
- Jan. 2009 Flood

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# We Can’t Do It Alone

- Government Partners: State, County, Local
- Non-Government Partners: The Salvation Army, Puget Sound Baptist Association & others
- Businesses & Community at Large
- Reserve Corps

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# Major Disasters

- Flooding
- Volcanic Eruption
- Lahar
- Earthquake
- Tsunami
- Transportation
- Snow Storms

- Wind storms
- Fires
  - Residential
  - Industrial
  - Multi-unit
  - Forest
- Terrorism
- Zombie invasion????

# An example you have all heard of….

# ….Green River & Howard Hansen Dam

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King County developed a comprehensive response plan based on

- 26,000-30,000 evacuees
- 5,000 seeking shelter
- 28,000 meals per day

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# Remember!

- The Red Cross is not a first responder!
- It takes several days to gear up for a major disaster response
- Don’t forget – many of us will be “clients”!

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# Initial Priorities…..

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# Five Initial Actions for large disasters

- Sheltering
- Feeding
- Disaster Assessment
- Staffing government EOC & coordinating with local partners
- Communicating to the public and fundraising

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# Disaster Response – so, how do we do all of this stuff?

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# We have ERVs, DERTs, LERTs, MFUs and Henry's Kitchen!

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FIRE

# Mass Care

- Sheltering

- Feeding

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- **Bulk Distribution**

- **Safe & Well Linking (The Red Cross does not handle “health & welfare” radio messages)**

DASANI
DASANI
DASANI
HOLD FOR
American Red Cross
DASANI WATER

American Red Cross
Disaster Services
A Gift From
American Red Cross

REGISTRATION
American Red Cross

# So, where does the staff stay?

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# Communications Team

- Supports Red Cross mission through use of 47 MHz radios supplemented by amateur radios
- Maintains the chapter radio room
- Participates in drills
  - Red Cross
  - EmComm

# Comm Team

- Conducts classes
  - Licensing
  - Ham skills
  - Trains Mass Care and other volunteers in use of 47 MHz radios
- Supports other comm functions
  - Satellite telephones
  - FRS
  - Disaster Services Technology (DST)

# 47 MHz Communications

- We have four licensed frequencies
- Base Remote on Cougar Mountain
- Most vehicles have 47 MHz radios
- Base stations at the Seattle and Bremerton offices
- “Bucket Kits” for shelters and portable operations

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# Vertex 47 MHz Radios

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# Disaster Services Technology (DST)

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16081
American
Red Cross
Disaster Relief

Red Cross

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EXIT
David

Red Cross

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# Disaster Services Technology (DST)

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# Comm Team Reserve Corps

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- Modeled after an existing program for Mass Care volunteers
- One day processing
  - Background check
  - Orientation
  - Training
    - Disaster Services Overview
    - General orientation
    - Two hours Red Cross radio training and orientation

# Why?

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# Comm Team Capabilities…

- Are limited.
- We must rely on mutual aid
  - Other chapters
  - National response
  - ARES/RACES/ACS

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- Volunteers are issued “Reserve Corps” ID cards.
- Volunteers are ready for immediate deployment without further processing
- The other option would be to process volunteers for each event

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# Remember!

- The Red Cross is not a first responder
- ARES/RACES/ACS duties have priority and are not a conflict

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# The next CTRC Class will be in September!

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# So, how do you contact the Red Cross in an emergency?

- Coordinate with the Government Liaison in the County and/or state EOC

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# Questions?

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- Kevin Kopp, KE7COD
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# Red Cross Resources

- **The American Red Cross**
  - Web address: **www.redcross.org**
  - **American Red Cross Serving King & Kitsap Counties**
  - **www.seattleredcross.org**

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